

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

With the current Office Action, the Examiner has returned a duly signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 filed with the July 23, 2003 IDS.

Claims 2-7 are all the claims currently pending in the present application. The Examiner indicates that Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been allowed. Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yata et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,674,836 (“Yata”), in view of Ishikawa, JP 04-287033 (“Ishikawa”).

II Claims 4 and 7

Regarding the Examiner’s §103(a) rejection of Claims 4 and 7 over Yata and Ishikawa, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submit that the cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest a light absorption layer formed only along the plurality of edges on the external surface of each second face, as recited in Claim 4. The Examiner refers to Ishikawa as disclosing a light absorption layer, as claimed. (Office Action, p. 3). However, the Ishikawa reference fails to explicitly describe any detailed structure of the light absorbing surface disclosed in the Abstract, and there is no teaching or suggestion in Ishikawa of a light absorption layer formed only along an edge of a prism, as claimed. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion in Yata of a light absorbing layer formed only along the plurality of edges on the external surface of each second face, as claimed.

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Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 4 is patentable over the cited combination of references, and that Claim 7 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 4 and 7 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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